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# CAPITOL CONNECTION

A Weekly Update of News and Views  
For Opinion Shapers and Policy Makers

**Congressman Gary G. Miller**  
**42<sup>nd</sup> District, California**



August 4, 2007

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## **House Approves Funding for Local Water Projects**

On Wednesday, the House passed the Water Resources Development Act to authorize funding for a six-year backlog of Army Corps of Engineers water resources infrastructure projects. Congressman Miller secured \$35 million in funding authorizations for technical, planning, and construction assistance for environmental infrastructure, resource protection, and wastewater infrastructure projects throughout the 42<sup>nd</sup> District. In addition, language was included at the request of Congressman Miller to relocate and restore the Santa Ana River Interceptor Line, a sanitary sewer line that was originally buried below the Santa Ana River bed that conveys raw sewage from Orange County and the Inland Empire, which erosion has left dangerously exposed in some locations. This line needs to be protected and realigned to prevent future erosion and exposure from anticipated increases in water releases once the Santa Ana Mainstem Project is complete. Congressman Miller was pleased to support this bill, which is the first step in the process of obtaining federal funding for these important infrastructure projects. The bill now heads to the Senate for final approval and to the President's desk.

## **Congressman Miller Secures Funding in Agriculture Bill**

This week, the House passed the Fiscal Year 2008 Agriculture Appropriations bill to fund our nation's natural resource and rural development priorities. As a part of this bill, Congressman Miller secured \$198,000 for the Irrigation Controller Installation Program for the Municipal Water District of Orange County. This program will allow for the installation of smart irrigation controller systems throughout Orange County that use innovative technology to regulate the amount of water that is delivered based on weather conditions, soil, slope, and type of landscape. Especially in Southern California, which is heavily reliant on imported water resources, this program will provide a coordinated effort to conserve water by controlling water usage. The Fiscal Year 2008 Agriculture Appropriations bill passed on Thursday.

## **Democrats Change Outcome of Vote to Give Benefits to Illegal Aliens**

During consideration of the Agriculture Appropriations bill, an amendment was offered that would have prevented any funds in the bill from being used to employ or provide benefits to illegal aliens. With the vote officially closed, the final tally showed that this amendment had passed by a margin of 215-213. However, in violation of House rules, Democratic leaders announced that several votes had changed and the amendment had in fact been defeated 212-216. Congressman Miller, who strongly supported the amendment, is outraged that Democratic leaders would manipulate the outcome of a vote in order to give illegal aliens government benefits. He will continue working aggressively to have this vote overturned and to remove any incentives for illegal immigrants to remain in the United States.

## **Congressman Miller Pushes for Secure, Tamper-Proof Documents for Entry Into U.S.**

Under the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), beginning next January individuals wishing to travel to the United States by land or sea from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, or Bermuda will be required to present a passport or other secure document in order to enter the country. Congressman Miller understands this new requirement has caused delays in passport processing and he is working aggressively to bring these needless delays to an end. At the same time, Congressman Miller is taking steps to ensure that the secure identification document mandated by the WHTI adequately protects our homeland against illegal immigration and terrorism. In a letter this week to the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security he urged that this document be physically secure, tamper-proof, and counterfeit-resistant.

## **House Members Resist Further Steps Toward North American Union**

In a letter to President Bush, Congressman Miller urged that the United States not take any further steps toward implementing the Security and Prosperity Partnership, an executive branch agreement to "harmonize" American laws with those of Canada and Mexico. This agreement has not been approved by Congress and Congressman Miller is concerned that it could potentially lead to a North American Union or the construction of a NAFTA superhighway linking the three countries. In fact, he supported an amendment last week that would bar any funds from being used for the construction of such a highway. Congressman Miller will continue to oppose any initiative that could have the effect of further weakening this country's ability to secure its homeland and prevent illegal immigration.